

NEW BOOKS.

Literature. Mainly English.

That two books marking the high water mark of American scholarship should appear simultaneously is more than gratifying. The new Shakespeare (Charles Scribner's Sons), Prof. Thomas R. Lounsbury of Yale University continues his series of enlightening dissertations on Shakespearean Wars. He tells here of the conflict between Pope and Theobald, the history of the writing of the text, despite his diffidence, "willing to bring Theobald to life again for the general public. Of course that does not mean the man in the street: To him even Pope, save for the Essay on Man," is merely a name. There are plenty of people, however, with some knowledge of the subject, and the specialists in Shakespeare—who will read Prof. Lounsbury's bright pages with pleasure and interest and be glad to learn the result of his research. It is delightful, for it is by no means common, to come upon a ripe scholar who believes it his duty to present the results of his research before he presents the results he derives from them to the public.

Another thoroughly scholarly and at the same time attractive volume is the "English Literature from the Norman Conquest to Chaucer," by Prof. William Henry Schofield. It is a history of English literature, written in a series of six volumes of much respectability, the other contributors of which are the Rev. Stopford A. Brooke, Prof. George Saintsbury and Mr. Edmund Gosse, names that have some authority, but hardly inspire enthusiasm in those who have to do with literary history. At first blush it might seem that a volume of 500 pages of English literature history would be very disproportionate to any literary history, but Prof. Schofield has performed a task which so far as we know has been undertaken by nobody before him. He has described the whole literature of mediæval England, the Latin and the Norman French writers as well as the English, and has arranged his matter not according to authors, who are of minor importance, but according to subjects. The method the French have adopted and is now introduced into English. It enables the author to give coherence to matter that would be otherwise confused and to present the extremely interesting subject of the romance, for instance, the legends of Charlemagne and Arthur and the rest in a manner at once scientific and comprehensible. The admirable handling of a very difficult task.

A wholly different form of Harvard activity is shown in Prof. J. H. Gardiner's *The Bible as English Literature* (Charles Scribner's Sons). While one part of the English department is busied with serious scholarly research, another part is occupied with teaching youth how to write English. This has emitted various books remarkable rather as the expression of the authors' opinions than as contributions to learning. They are intended to popularize and spread what may seem somewhat naive truths. In his preface, Prof.

Hardin tells us that "It is obvious that a literary criticism of the Bible could hope for no success that was not reverent in tone." Shades of Cotton Mather and all the Puritan fathers! It is a long stretch from their fruits of New England to a Harvard professor patting the King James version of the Bible on the head before a mixed audience in the Lowell Institute lectures.

The originator of this form of diffusion of Harvard knowledge, Prof. Barrett Wendell, presents in "Liberty, Union and Democracy" (Charles Scribner's Sons) the amiable lectures with which he enlightened the Sorbonne about his native land. When the interchange of professors between Europe and America began the French example of sending here ladylike lecturers who could talk down to rather ignorant barbarians tends to have impressed Harvard. Prof. Wendell was greeted enthusiastically in Paris. This volume will gratify the curiosity of those who wish to know what he

Mr. Edmund Gosse's definition of "Modern English Literature" (Frederick A. Stokes company) comprises everything from Chaucer to Stevenson. To include that story in a volume of 300 pages implies imitations. The book has been before the public for ten years and is now published in a fifth edition with many portraits, eight of which are in photogravure.

The interest attaching to the unknown will attract to Dr. Frederik Riedl's "A History of Hungarian Literature" (Appelton). To most people it will bring up only the memory of some folk songs and the names of Petöfi and Maurus Jokai. Many more names will be found in this volume, as well as interesting chapters on the people, the language and the history. *It is doubtful if the reader will feel after*

It is pleasant in travelling to follow a definite object, as Mr. Henry C. Shelley does in "Literary By-Paths of Old England" (Little, Brown and Company). He has hunted out the places associated with certain authors and in that way discovered

at of the way corners in England. His authors are Spenser, Sir Philip Sidney, Gray, Gilbert White, Goldsmith, Burns, Keats, Carlyle and Tom Hood. He also tells about William Penn and about Winchester. He writes pleasantly and his photographs are excellent and very interesting.

Other Books.

To persons who are nurturing about ecultism and turning for inspiration to the sitting Hindus who give themselves out as "awarnis" of one kind or another some idea of what Hindu religion really is may be profitable. This they will find in a compact and very clear statement, Prof. Paul Deussen's "Outline of the Vedanta System According to Shankara," which has been translated by J. H. Woods and A. B. Runkle.

A long series of lectures delivered before the University of Chicago by practical railroad men is included in a volume entitled *Railway Organization and Working*, edited by Edwin Ritsen Dewanun (The

The chief value of Mr. Henry Sweetser Savage's "Gettysburg and Lincoln" (G. P.

By employing the device of making the intimate talk, Anne, Helena, Woodruff in

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